

Office of the Attorney General

the KENTUCKY SENIOR SNOOPER

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Office of Senior Protection

3/1/99

Office of Senior Protection

Attorney General Ben Chandler created the Office of Senior Protection on July 16, 1998. This office is designed to coordinate the office's efforts and make it easier for seniors to get the help and information they need to make sure their rights are protected.

This new office will focus on crime prevention relating to the state's senior citizen population in coordination with other offices within the Attorney General's Office and other state agencies in a continuous effort to improve the delivery of crime prevention information. The primary mission of this office is:

- C continually reinforce the message of crime prevention to Kentucky's senior citizens population;

- C provide methods by which senior citizens can be alerted to consumer fraud, con games, and other criminal acts, so they can avoid being victimized themselves and report suspicious activities to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Seniors Crime College

The Seniors Crime College is a program offered by the Attorney General's Office in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies to educate senior citizens on crime prevention. The training provided through the Seniors Crime College is to help stop physical and financial crimes against the senior citizens of Kentucky.



The theme of the Seniors Crime college is **AAware, Avoid, Alert@**. Attorney General Ben Chandler said **A**the goal of our Crime College is to make seniors aware of the frauds against them and teach them how to avoid becoming a victim. In addition , we want seniors to alert the proper law enforcement official so that the criminals can be caught before they get to their next potential victim.@

Twenty-three (23) Seniors Crime College seminars have taken place throughout the

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Commonwealth with nine (9) more planned for March and April. Arrangements are now being made for scheduling the Seniors Crime College for the upcoming year. Senior Citizen Centers are calling every day and volunteering their center to host the seminar. Many fine presentations by County Sheriffs, local Police and the Kentucky State Police have provided valuable information to seniors across the state.

If you would like to attend a Senior Crime College, or have one put on for your local or civic organization, call the Attorney General's Office of Senior Protection at **(502) 696-5610**.

Senior Sleuth

Numerous people from all across Kentucky are applying to become Senior Sleuths. These individuals have been working with our agency in investigating crimes against seniors.

If you have attended the Attorney General's Seniors Crime College and are interested in helping prevent crime, you can become a Senior Sleuth. Just contact the Office of Senior Protection at **(502) 696-5610** for further details.

National Consumer Protection Week

To commemorate National Consumer Protection Week, the Attorney General's Office, the Better Business Bureau, and AARP sponsored an informative consumer education event - **Scam Jam** - on February 3rd at the Kentucky Horse Center in Lexington.

Featured speaker was nationally known investigative reporter, Chuck Whitlock with the television show EXTRA. Mr. Whitlock shared with an audience of over 900, the truth behind the con artists' games and how they work to get consumers' money. He showed actual live camera footage of his undercover work to expose cons and demonstrated to the audience how easy it is for consumers to be ripped-off. After the program, a panel of consumer experts answered questions from the audience and door prizes were awarded. Sponsors of the program hope to

make this an annual event. (Note: Other sponsors included WLEX-TV, The Herald Leader, the US Postal Inspection Service, and the Kentucky Horse Center).

Bankers Against Financial Exploitation

Senior Protection will be the focus of KBA's Certified Teller Training series this fall where over 1,000 bank tellers from across the state will receive information on crimes against seniors. Those tellers completing the course will receive a silver ribbon and desk marker to indicate their specialized training.

In addition, the Office of Senior Protection is putting on mini Senior Crime Colleges for bank customers when requested. If you would like your bank to have a crime prevention seminar tell them to call the Office of Senior Protection at **(502) 696-5610**.

Financial Integrity Enforcement

The Division of Financial Integrity Enforcement was created by Attorney General Ben Chandler on December 16, 1998. This division was established to perform the following functions:

- , investigate illegal redemption of food stamp benefits in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Cabinet for Families and Children;
- , verify eligibility of food stamp program applicants as to past criminal history;
- , investigate the illegal distribution of counterfeit merchandise;
- , investigate the use of personal identification by persons for the purpose of theft and/or fraud, and other illegal or fraudulent activity which may involve electronic commerce.

Mr. Loren ASquirrel@ Carl, Director of this new division, will be working closely with the Office

of Senior Protection. Information on how to avoid *Raising your identity* will be presented to senior

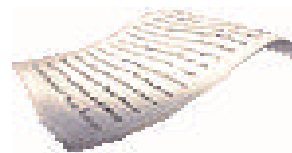
If you would like more information or would like to make a report of this crime, call the Division of Financial Integrity Enforcement at **1-800-804-7556**.

citizens at the Seniors Crime Colleges.

FOR MORE

DETAILED

INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE EVENTS, CALL **(502) 696-5610**.



Fraud Conferences

The Attorney General's Office will be sponsoring two special conferences this spring. On April 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. we will hold a conference on Nursing Home Fraud and Abuse. The following day, April 6th, beginning at 8:30 a.m., we and AARP will be hosting a full day conference on Telemarketing Fraud. Both of these conferences will be held in Lexington at the Ramada Inn (formerly Harley Hotel).

Mr. Chuck Whitlock, nationally known investigative reporter with the TV show EXTRA, will be a guest speaker on both days. He will be sharing his experiences from his undercover nursing home and telemarketing investigations which have been aired on Extra, Oprah and other nationally syndicated programs.

If you would like more information pertaining to the Nursing Home Fraud and Abuse conference, please call **(505) 696-5405**. For information pertaining to the Telemarketing Conference, call **(502) 696-5389**.

The Kentucky Senior Snooper Newsletter

This newsletter is provided to Senior Citizens for informational purposes only and will be published quarterly. Anyone wanting to share *newsworthy* news for senior citizens can do so by submitting their articles to: **The Office of the Attorney General, Office of Senior Protection, 700 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, ATTN: Roberta Merideth.**

Calendar of Events

3-9-99	Seniors Crime College	Louisville
3-10-99	Seniors Crime College	Carrollton
3-11-99	Seniors Crime College	Frankfort
3-16-99	Seniors Crime College	Florence
3-17-99	Seniors Crime College	Lexington
3-24-99	Seniors Crime College	Harrodsburg
3-25-99	Seniors Crime College	Somerset
3-30-99	Seniors Crime College	Cynthiana
4-5-99	Nursing Home Fraud	Lexington
4-6-99	Telemarketing Conf.	Lexington
4-21-99	Seniors Crime College	Georgetown

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**Office of the Attorney General
Office of Senior Protection
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601**